

CONGRESS MADE
GREAT MISTAKE

Law Passed to Enable Selection of Timber Lands.

CORRECTIVE ACT IS NEEDED

PARTED WITH VALUABLE FOR WORTHLESS TRACTS.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Representative Mondell of Wyoming, in making a favorable report to the house upon his bill prohibiting the selection of timber lands in lieu of lands in forest reserves, states:

On June 4, 1897, the following legislation in regard to lands within forest reserves was enacted: That in cases in which a tract covered by an unperfected bona fide claim or by a patent is included within the limits of a public forest reservation, the settler or owner thereof may, if he desires to do so, relinquish the tract to the government, and may select in lieu thereof a tract of vacant land open to settlement not exceeding in area the tract covered by his claim or patent; and no charge shall be made in such cases for making the entry of record or issuing the patent to cover the tract selected.

The above legislation was enacted in order to enable owners or bona fide claimants of lands within forest reserves to relinquish their lands or claims and obtain therefor an equal acreage of public lands. It was argued that on the one hand the public interest would be served by eliminating private land from the forest reserves, leaving the government in exclusive ownership or control as far as practicable, and that on the other hand the legislation was designed to protect the standpoint of settlers in the forest reserve, inasmuch as it would enable them to relinquish lands the value and desirability of which had been affected by the establishment of the reserve, and obtain other lands of equal area elsewhere.

There were some features of the situation with regard to the forest reserves and as to the effect of the legislation in question which were undoubtedly neither clearly understood nor fully appreciated at the time of the passage of the act, and while the objects sought were unquestionably laudable, and in the interest of the public service, and such would have been the results if exchanges had been limited to lands of practice equal value and confined to lands which were occupied by settlers, in its operation the legislation has enabled certain land grant railroads and other large land owners to exchange lands which were originally and practically valueless or had been rendered so by being denuded of their timber, for the most valuable timber lands owned by the government.

Opened Way to Fraud. From tables prepared by the commissioner of the general land office it appears that there has been relinquished as bases for lien selections 1,968,102 acres, and that of this amount considerably more than half, or 1,028,400 acres, have been relinquished by grant lands within the primary limits of such grants. And it is undoubtedly true that a very considerable portion of the relinquished lands amounting to nearly half as much as was carried in the tables as "miscellaneous" have been railway indemnity lands. Three hundred and forty-three thousand nine hundred and eighty acres of the lands relinquished were California and Oregon school lands, and a prominent citizen of California is now under indictment for alleged frauds in connection with securing these lands for bases of lien selections and other frauds and irregularities in connection with lien lands.

It is very clear that comparatively few actual settlers have taken advantage of the provisions of the lien land law; that the principal beneficiaries have been the owners of railroad and state school lands; that there are at this time over three-quarters of a million acres of land within the primary limits of railroads which are available as bases for the selection of an equal acreage of valuable timber land; that there are over 600,000 acres of such lands under survey which will be available for the same purpose when surveyed in the near future, and that there are over 1,000,000 acres of such lands which will undoubtedly be surveyed in the near future, making in all 2,481,200 acres of land within the primary limits of railway land grants which are, or which will be in the near future, available as bases for lien selections, and for which an equal acreage of the most valuable timber lands of the nation may be, and undoubtedly will be, exchanged if the bill in question does not become a law.

Grants in Forest Reserves. In addition to this vast acreage of lands within the primary limits of railway land grants which can be exchanged for valuable timber lands, there are undoubtedly large areas in the forest reserves of indemnity railroad lands, as well as other lands, which can be exchanged for other forest lands.

The inclusion within forest reserves of so large an area of railroad lands (in the neighborhood of 5,500,000 acres) within primary limits and thousands of acres more of indemnity lands) which could be used as bases for lien selections, if such lands were all of them of a character imperatively demanding their reservation for the conservation of water supply and the preservation of timber for future use, as contemplated by the spirit of the act authorizing the creation of forest reserves, might perhaps be justified and defended on the ground of wise public policy, even though such action resulted in the absorption of large tracts of the public domain in lieu selections. But it is unfortunately a fact that large areas of railroad lands and other lands in private ownership have been included in forest reserves, which are neither generally timbered or of any considerable value for water conservation, or for any other purpose contemplated by the forest reserve law, the inclusion of which within reserves has given the owners of the lands an opportunity to possess themselves of some of the best timber lands of the nation.

The committee agrees with the secretary of the interior and the commissioner of the general land office that the passage of the bill is in the interest of public policy and that it is urgently demanded, in view of the present situation, in order to prevent the absorption of millions of acres of public timber by lien land locations. As pointed out in the commissioner's report, those seeking to make changes have no chance to complain of the provisions of the bill, as the exchange is not compulsory, and if it is desired to use lands within reserves now timbered, as a base for exchange, the timber must be removed before making the exchange, in which even a fair value can be exchanged for non-timbered lands, as contemplated by the bill.

1,500 pairs of Walk-overs at \$2.65 and \$2.90 beginning Feb. 3.

VIOLENT DEATHS.

Unusually Busy Day at Morgue in San Francisco.

San Francisco, Jan. 31.—Seven sudden deaths kept the morgue wagon on the go all day today. The victims of the grim reaper ranged in ages from a child who had been killed by a light of one day to an old man who had passed through the dangers of life for over 80 years, only to meet his end by being accidentally asphyxiated by gas. Of the five remaining victims two took their lives, one was suddenly stricken while on pleasure drive, a fourth while strolling along the street.

The infant son of Alfred Schurr, which was born Saturday, was suffocated while sleeping with his mother, George Langen, 38 years of age, was accidentally asphyxiated. Esther E. Jarrett and Charles Joseph Harrington, both committed suicide by inhaling gas. George Langen, 38 years of age, was found dead in front of his residence as he was starting for a stroll. Harry Hitchcock, while driving with a friend, expired on pleasure drive, a fourth while strolling along the street.

The water for over a month.

WARSHIPS MOVE.

Part of United States Fleet in Eastern Waters.

New York, Jan. 31.—The United States battleship Iowa and Maine left the Brooklyn navy yard today. The Iowa goes direct to Culebra to join the North Atlantic squadron. After stopping at Hampton Roads to have her torpedo tubes tested, the Maine will proceed to Culebra, where she will become the flagship of Rear Admiral Barker, commanding the North Atlantic squadron.

Gibraltar, Jan. 31.—The United States torpedo boat flotilla, escorted by the auxiliary cruiser Buffalo, left here today for the island of Culebra, where it will probably reach Algiers tomorrow afternoon.

San Francisco, Jan. 31.—The Italian fifth-class cruiser Puglia arrived today from Acapulco. After a brief stay in port the Puglia will sail for the Orient.

FOR CHEAPER MEAT.

Efforts of Vienna Officials to Induce Imports Are Opposed.

Vienna, Jan. 31.—The efforts of the municipal council to reduce the price of meat to the people of Vienna by inducing the importation of Trans-Atlantic meat products are meeting with very strong opposition from the agricultural interests. Associations of farmers and cattlemen and peasants' unions throughout Austria have addressed telegrams of protest to the ministry of the interior and the city council urging that irreparable damage would be done to the agricultural interests of the country by the importation of meat from the other side of the Atlantic.

The butchers of Vienna, being opposed to the sale of foreign meat, the Pork Butchers' association has taken up the matter and now announces that the shipment of meat from Vienna will arrive here next Tuesday. It appears to be very doubtful, however, whether the government will permit this shipment to be sold.

During the past few days agents of prominent American packing houses have been investigating the local situation, and it is reported that the present is not a favorable time to enter the Austrian market.

STORY WAS A FAKE.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 31.—Further investigation of the story published in the United States under a Berlin date to the effect that during recent maneuvers of Russian troops a bridge was blown up by order of the Grand Duke Sergei, governor general of Moscow, resulting in the killing or wounding of fifty officers and 1,000 men, proves that to be absolutely false. The report is evidently a re-echo of an accident which occurred during the maneuvers of 1902. Grand Duke Sergei was then defending Moscow against General Kuropatkin. Owing to a mistake, taken order was not given by the grand duke, a few men were killed at the blowing up of a bridge.

REVOLT NEARING END.

Washington, Jan. 31.—According to information received at the state department, all the ports of San Domingo are now in the possession of the Morales provisional government, which preceded the government of General Wey. The revolution seems to have been stamped out, though there has been no diplomatic recognition of the Morales government. United States officials in San Domingo have entered into relations with it, this step being necessary for the protection of commercial business.

SELF DESTRUCTION.

Denver, Jan. 31.—A News special from Albuquerque, N. M., says that W. A. Bilyens, who arrived there several days ago en route to California, and registered at the El Comodoro, committed suicide today by leaping in front of a switch engine drawing a train of cars. The engine and one car passed over him, severing his head from his body. The act was witnessed by a number of the patrons of a nearby hotel. It is believed that the man became suddenly insane.

ENVOY WILL STAY.

Washington, Jan. 31.—General Rafael Reyes, the Colombian envoy who came here in the interest of the reintegration of Panama, in a letter from New York to the state department, announced that he had decided to postpone his departure for Colombia, but gave no reason for his decision, any indication as to when he expected to leave for home.

SUIT FOR OIL LANDS.

Monterey, Mex., Jan. 31.—Mrs. Marcela Lopez, a widow of this city, has given her attorney authority to bring suit for the possession of approximately 10,000 acres of land located in the oil region of Nacogdoches, Texas, by the plaintiffs family of Beaumont and valued by experts at \$2,000,000. Until Mrs. Lopez was in ignorance of her interest in the lands, the titles to which had been secured by her husband, who it is alleged, secured them under a Spanish grant, which, it is believed, invalidates the Texas independence.

RISOS' IRE RAISED.

Madrid, Jan. 31.—As a result of the publication of the preliminary report on him for the part played in the peace negotiations in Paris between the United States and Spain, Senator Alonso Risos has demanded that the government submit to the senate all the correspondence and documents connected with the negotiations. The fulfillment of his demand probably will give rise to heated debate.

Best Train Service East.

From St. Louis and Chicago. The New York Limited, the most luxurious train from St. Louis to New York, leaves St. Louis daily at 12:20 noon. Other fast trains with through cars to New York and the east over the Pennsylvania Short Lines leave St. Louis as follows: The Keystone Express at 8:44 a. m., and the New York Express at 11:35 p. m. Trains run solid from Chicago over Pennsylvania Short Lines to New York and the east daily as follows: The Pennsylvania Limited at 6 o'clock p. m., the Manhattan Limited at 1 o'clock p. m., the Keystone Express at 10:06 a. m., the Ask George T. Buel, District Agent, 818 Seventeenth street, Denver, Colo., for particulars.

FOUR HUSBANDS AND ONE WIFE

Toda Women Marry All the Male Members of a Family—Queer Facts About a Fast-dying Race.

(Madras, India, Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.)

ONLY 101 left out of a race that, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, was still 100,000 heads strong. This is the news your correspondent carries back from Todaland, presidency of Madras, where, amid inaccessible mountains and precipitous cliffs, he found the sad remnants of one of the proudest and handsomest tribes that ever lived in the hemisphere.

Polyandry is the cause for the astonishing and unexplained disappearance of the race of warriors succumbing to the physical consequences of a law made several hundred years before Christ.

A Toda tradition says that their forefathers belonged to the army of Alexander the Great, who entered India 327 B. C.; other legends claim Roman soldiers as the Toda grandfathers. In either case these earliest settlers were probably as hard up for wives as the ancient Romans, who had to steal their women.

Consequently, when only the remnants of the Toda race remained on the mountain tops of Nilgiri, about 7,000 feet above the level of the sea, there was good reason for the time rule that a girl given in marriage should be wife not only to one but also to her husband's brothers.

In the interest of race propagation it is decreed that no one man should be allowed the monopoly of women's love and affection, but, on the contrary, should permit his brothers, or in case he had none, his other near relatives, to share the privilege.

That was very well for the time. It was a practice that must have prevailed in one form or another with our biblical forefathers also.

Whether polyandry prevailed in Todaland through all the centuries of the Christian era your correspondent was unable to ascertain, but he did learn that it was in vogue at the beginning of the present century, after the Toda had become a strong and numerous people.

The surviving eighteen or nineteen Toda families consist of a wife and from four to six or seven husbands.

The male children from these unions, or number of unions, are credited to the eldest husband. The oldest female child is supposed to be the offspring of the husband's eldest brother, the second baby calls the second oldest name.

The degeneration of the race manifests itself solely in the decrease of population. Individually the Todas are healthy, beautiful of face and limb, and women are dressed in a simple garment, a square piece of white or gray linen, in which they drape their plastic forms with dignity and coquetry.

Up to the time of the interference of the Madras British government the Toda men were dressed solely in their crowning glory, a mantle of beautiful black tresses, which they wore around their shoulders, and a single or metal chain around their naked waists. Today they braid their hair and let it fall gracefully upon their nude neck as of old; silver or gold necklaces and armlets and, really, the official linen cloth does not in the least interfere with the display of their charms.

The faces of both men and women indicate European origin; they have little in common with the race characteristics of the people of India. The mouth is firm, the teeth are good and the forehead high and slightly receding. Both sexes have bushy eyebrows and Greek noses. The men all wear a long, black and thick beard. Men and women are tall and have plastic forms, with small extremities. Like other children of nature, they have no notions of prudery or moral restriction.

The mountain plateau they inhabit is steeped in eternal spring and summer, they know nothing of cold seasons or of want. They have a god of their own, whom they honor in a temple a little larger than an outdoor shrine, with a large, but not a very high, gable roof, and a young man, act as intermediaries between the Toda god and his people. These must adopt the single white for a while, but are allowed to take a wife after a certain period.

Keeps Up Old State.

Your correspondent counted 106 Toda villages, so called, each consisting of four huts and a temple. Eighty or more, though, are uninhabited, the population having died out. The villages are built on mountain tops and precipices that can be reached only with much difficulty by narrow and dangerous paths. The huts make a cleanly and pleasant appearance. They are built of wood and the walls are covered with some sort of cement. They cover from eight to fifteen square feet and are from seven to eight feet high. The roof consists of bamboo twigs and palm leaves. There is only one entrance, which can be locked by a stout plank running through two pillars. Opposite the door is the main table, a little platform covered with straw mats and fur rugs. In the other end of the room are an oil stove and shelves, with kitchen utensils.

The temple is always the largest hut of the village, as all the inhabitants keep their milk in one part of the edifice, separated from the priest's room by a board wall.

The Todas call themselves "kings of the hills," and scorn the idea of tilling the soil. For many centuries tribute in the shape of grain and other necessities. This seems to indicate that the supposition is correct which stamps the Todas as descendants of soldiers or conquerors.

Your correspondent asked the Todas about the Bagadri tribe, living in the Nilgiri hills, why they continue the practice of furnishing the mountaineers with provisions. They said they did not know; it had always been so since the days of King Ravana.

"Who is King Ravana?"

"A mighty giant monarch, living far away, from Madras, who has taken the Todas to this territory, excluding them from their beautiful homes, their great cities, all their great riches."

The Ravana story is an instance of the persistence with which the Todas maintain their sway over the weak-minded native races. Among them the Bagadris are the worst blackmailed of them all. In one tribe each man marries he has to pay each male Toda one-quarter or one-half of a rupee, that is, 10 to 20 cents, on pain of being kidnapped and held prisoner until the liege lords be exacted paid in full.

They have no literature and even their traditions on things divine live in memory only. As already stated, the majority believe in one God without restricting the rest of the community as to the number of gods they choose to worship. Your correspondent encountered many Todas who seemed to believe in the transmigration of the soul. All hope to live after death in the great heavenly empire of Orunoor, which corresponds in all things with the "happy hunting grounds" of the American Indian. The women are well treated and seem to keep the men in a sort of subjection.

The girl does the courting herself and cannot be forced to marry against her will. This is only fair when it is considered that she marries not one, but a dozen men by the one act, and is, therefore, binding herself to all of them. The man, on the other hand, may refuse the hand offered him. If he accepts he is expected to present six or eight buffaloes to the young lady's parents, and that settles the bargain.

The husband's brothers do not live with the couple, but may have wives of their own—but they must call upon their sister-in-law at all times and the

woman must treat them in all ways like full-fledged husbands, tending their cattle, looking after their garments, etc.

Great Reverence for the Dead.

The only festivals which the Todas celebrate are the festivals of the dead. To make them more impressive three to five burials are held at the same time. In these the bodies do not figure, for they are cremated almost immediately after death. The festivities last three days and attract great crowds, not only from the Todas, but also from the neighboring tribes. The Todas, for instance, must furnish the music, while another tribe brings extra provisions.

The relatives of the dead remain during the day of the official funeral in and around the late residence of the deceased, while the latter's brothers drive together the buffaloes that are to be sacrificed. Upon the morning of the second day the ashes are placed upon an altar in the open air, and the relatives come from all over the hills to be present.

The natives make speeches and murmur prayers, and each touches the body of the dead with a stick of incense. The relatives throw a few handfuls of dirt into the hole, and the buffaloes are then driven away. The natives make speeches and murmur prayers, and each touches the body of the dead with a stick of incense. The relatives throw a few handfuls of dirt into the hole, and the buffaloes are then driven away.

The Todas do not eat meat. They live entirely on cereals and milk. The milk they do not want themselves they sacrifice to the god by letting it soak into the soil. The only other religious rite they perform is a salute offered to the rising sun by the blowing of a conch shell.

A French traveler whom your correspondent met accounted for the fact that the Todas degenerate on account of polyandry and other Indian tribes devoted to that form of marriage flourished in the hills of the Nilgiri, and proved that the Todas were correct.

This deduction would be correct if the ancestors of the Todas were soldiers from Rome. If, on the other hand, they were the descendants of conquerors, rather weak, for polyandry was practiced in several states of Greece—in Sparta, for instance. The French traveler whom your correspondent met accounted for the fact that the Todas degenerate on account of polyandry and other Indian tribes devoted to that form of marriage flourished in the hills of the Nilgiri, and proved that the Todas were correct.

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ITALIAN USES KNIFE OUR SPECIAL THIS WEEK

Man Jolted Him When Leaving Murray Smelter and a Stabbing Results.

(Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.)

Orson Smith was stabbed by an Italian named Mark Pollich, at Murray last night, and the latter is now in the city jail, charged with the crime. Both men are employees of the American Smelter at Murray, and were coming off shift at 11 o'clock last night when the deed was committed. In leaving work the men are required by the company to pass through a small gate, where each receives a check to be used when coming on duty again. As the men were leaving work last night Smith and Pollich jostled together in the crowd that always gathers at the gate, and the Italian, it is charged, pulled a knife and struck Smith twice, once in the head and another time in the back. The wounds, while of a dangerous nature, are not serious. Pollich, at once ran away and secreted himself at home, where he was found later by Marshal Michael Mauss, who took him to jail.

Rain Services. Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 31.—Special prayers were offered today in all the Catholic and Protestant churches of the city for rain. In some of the churches special rain services were held.

Sickly Children. If your child is restless at night, grinds its teeth, wets the bed, is constipated, or if he or she is sickly, fretful and peevish, you can be sure it has Worms. KICKAPOO WORM KILLER will expel them and restore the child's health. It is a safe, pleasant to take and won't harm the most delicate child. 25c. a box at druggists, or by mail from us. Your money back if not satisfactory.

Established 1862. Park's JEWELRY STORE. 112 MAIN ST. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

KICKAPOO INDIAN WORM KILLER is endorsed and recommended by thousands of mothers.

When my little boy was four years old he began to pine. I did not know what to do for him. He grew more sickly every day. When I heard of your KickAPOO Indian Worm Killer I bought a box of that medicine, and gave my boy one of the pills. He ate the one dose and it brought away twelve large stomach worms. The child's health was restored. I am glad to recommend it to all mothers, and give you permission to print my name.

Mrs. RACHEL LAGARE, Book 34 sent free. Chateaugay, N. Y. KICKAPOO INDIAN WORM KILLER CO., Clintonville, Conn.

Servant Question—You'll settle it so far as the washing and cleaning are concerned by supplying Yours With Pyles Pearline.

The work will be done well—easily—safely and you'll have a Grateful Servant.

Two Prominent Young Men Under Suspicion. Bedford, Ind., Jan. 31.—Two Bedford young men prominent in business and society circles are under surveillance, suspected of complicity in the murder of Miss Sarah Schafer, the young Latin teacher found murdered in a barn here ten days ago. Additional evidence, the police asserted, has been discovered in the barn where the death struggle took place, and they promise a decided step toward ferreting out the murder within another day or two. Both of the men under surveillance had, at different times, it is asserted, been repulsed by Miss Schafer in their advances.

Baron Hayashi Waits. London, Feb. 1.—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to Great Britain, informed the Associated Press last night that his government did not know what Russia's answer would be, and it was, therefore, impossible to say whether war was probable or not. The fact that the Russian reply had not yet been despatched showed, according to Baron Hayashi, that Russia's decision had not yet been taken, and it was hardly probable, if a decision had been reached, that the note should be delayed.

A semi-official denial has been issued by the Russian government to the report that the czar presided at a council at which the Russian reply was decided on, and it is explained that no conference except a "which" Grand Duke Alexis presided had been held in connection with the Russo-Japanese affairs.

Reyes Knows Not. New York, Jan. 31.—General Rafael Reyes, special envoy from Colombia, said today regarding the report that his country was about to send an army to Panama:

"If Colombia is thinking of going to war, I know nothing of it and have nothing to do with it."

General Reyes expects to leave for home in a few days. He said that so far as he was concerned, his negotiations with the state department at Washington ended with his note of Jan. 13 delivered to Secretary Hay.

"Negotiations terminated then," he added. "Unless the state department requests the presence of my plenipotentiary, I have nothing further to add to that note."

Reply to Elks. Seattle, Jan. 31.—The committee of the local lodge of Elks which yesterday stated the authorities at Washington for orders that District Attorney Fry participate and question witnesses in the Clallam investigation, received an answer today, stating that the local board of marine inspectors has absolute control of the hearings. Neither the department of justice nor the department of commerce and labor has any authority to Fry's participation. Inspectors Whitney and Turner are willing, but no orders will issue either to the inspectors or the district attorney.

Might Have Been Worse. Princeton, Ind., Jan. 31.—Train wreckers removed a number of spikes and bolts from the tracks on the Southern railroad here today, and a passenger train running at a rate of twenty miles an hour was derailed, the baggage car and day coach an engine and passenger car were derailed. There were seventy-five passengers on the train, but all escaped with slight injuries. Detectives say they have a clue to the wreckers.

Town Burned Out. Greenville, Miss., Jan. 31.—Fire at Hollandale destroyed every building in the town except two dwellings. Loss, \$20,000. The fire started in a saloon, and a high wind fanned the flames to such proportions that the volunteer fire department could not stay its progress.

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